



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

February 22, 1991

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Bluewater Uranium Mine Sites, Prewitt, New Mexico,
Navajo Nation

FROM: Robert Bornstein *RB*
On-Scene-Coordinator

TO: Don White, Chief
Field Operations Branch

Terry Brubaker, Section Chief
Emergency Response Section

This memo is to inform you of the progress concerning the Bluewater Uranium Sites since our February 12, 1991 briefing. I have been in constant contact with the Office of Air and Radiation in Washington and Las Vegas. Mr. Tony Walbarst, OAR-HQ, has been assigned to review the data. Because of the potential precedent that may be established by OAR's decision, they have requested additional time in making their formal decision. A briefing for Mr. Richard Guimond, Director of Radiation Programs is scheduled on March 17, 1991. After this briefing, OAR is expected to submit to Region IX their conclusions.

ATSDR is also currently reviewing the data. An informal conference call was conducted on Feb. 15, 1991 with regional ATSDR staff, Bill Nelson and Gwen Ing, ATSDR-Atlanta, ERS staff, Bill Weis and myself. It is anticipated that ATSDR will respond with their conclusions by the first week of March.

ERS has also been in contact with the Navajo Superfund Program and Indian Health Services requesting that the preschool livestock well be retested. IHS has stated they will resample the well.

Overall, informally, most opinions support a limited removal action with additional radiation studies and testing. In addition, the sites should be considered for the NPL.

Bill Weis and Linda Wandres have been working on drafting a 104E letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to request land lease information.

I will keep you up to date on any new developments. If you have any questions, please contact me at 4-2298.